

Volume 1, Issue 3

October 27, 2003

Iowa Board of Dental Examiners

Electronic Newsletter for the Iowa Board of Dental Examiners



The Board is providing this newsletter to supply licensees and registrants with the most current information regarding their license and registration.

Upcoming 2004 Board Meetings

January 15-16

May 20-21

July 22-23

October 14-15

On October 22, 2003, the Board of Dental Examiners new rules related to dental assistant expanded functions became effective. These rules were a culmination of three years of study and effort by the Dental Assistant Committee and the full Board that began with dental assistant registration in 2001. If a supervising dentist chooses to delegate these tasks, dental assistants who complete board-approved training may be eligible to perform the following nine expanded functions:

1. Taking occlusal registrations;
2. Placement and removal of gingival retraction;
3. Taking final impressions;
4. Fabrication and removal of provisional restorations;
5. Applying cavity liners and bases, desensitizing agents, and bonding systems;

6. Placement and removal of dry socket medication;

7. Placement of periodontal dressings;

8. Testing pulp vitality; and

9. Monitoring of nitrous oxide inhalation analgesia.

Prior to the adoption of these amendments, dentists were prohibited from delegating any of these duties to a dental assistant. Implementation of the new rules is an exciting development that will allow dentists to increase the utilization of dental assistants in their office.

Expanded function training is eligible for board approval if the training is offered through an accredited program or another program prior-approved by the board, which may include (continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

Expanded Functions for Dental Assistants	1
Dental Assistant Trainee Manual	1
Foreign Graduate Rules	2
About the Iowa Board of Dental Examiners	3
Dental Assistant Renewal Information	3

Dental Assistant Trainee Manual Updated

At its April Board meeting, the Iowa Board of Dental Examiners approved the insertion of radiography study material into its Dental Assistant Trainee Manual. This material is intended for dental assistant trainees who wish to study and train in the area of dental radiography in accordance with a Board-approved program of study.

The updated manual now covers four top-

ics of study: infection control, hazardous materials jurisprudence, and dental radiography. The updated trainee manual can be obtained through the office of the Iowa Board of Dental Examiners.

To order a Dental Assistant Trainee Manual, please submit a written request with a check or money order for \$70.

Expanded Functions for Dental Assistants (cont'd)

on the job training offered by a dentist licensed in Iowa. Training must consist of the following:

1. An initial assessment to determine the base entry level of all participants in the program. At a minimum, participants must be currently certified by the Dental Assisting National Board or must have a minimum of two years of clinical dental assisting experience;
2. A didactic component;
3. A laboratory component if necessary;
4. A clinical component, which may be obtained under the personal supervision of the participant's supervising dentist while the participant is concurrently enrolled in the trainee program; and
5. A postcourse competency assessment at the conclusion of the trainee program.

The Board will be listing approved courses on its website as well as additional guidelines for course approval in each specific function. Assistants can take either a course that has been prior-approved, or submit an alternative training course for approval. The Board will consider requests to approve on-the-job training as long as the training plan

consists of all of the components identified above.

As part of the rule changes adopted by the Board, old provisions that required dental assistants to complete an application for expanded function registration and pay an expanded function application fee were eliminated. Instead, the supervising dentist and registered dental assistant will be responsible for maintaining documentation of expanded function training. Sample forms for documenting expanded function training will be available on the Board's website.

Like all other intraoral duties performed by dental assistants, expanded function duties must be performed under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist. Direct supervision means that the dentist has delegated the task and is present in the treatment facility, but not necessarily the treatment room.

Stay tuned to the Board's website for additional information related to expanded function training approval and related forms.

Foreign Graduate Rules

The Board has filed Notice of Intended Action to amend its licensure rules to allow graduates of foreign dental schools to apply for licensure in the state of Iowa provided certain requirements are met. Currently, all applicants for dental licensure in Iowa must graduate from an accredited dental school. Only schools in the United States and some schools in Canada are currently accredited.

If the amendments are approved, graduates of a foreign dental school may be eligible for licensure if the graduate completes a full-time supplemental dental education program of at least two academic years at an accredited dental college. The supplemental program must provide didactic and clinical education to the level of a DDS or DMD graduate of the dental school.

When applying for a license, the graduate must also supply a transcript from the foreign dental school and verification

of licensure from the country where the applicant graduated. The applicant must also provide evidence of English proficiency and meet all other examination or credentialing requirements for licensure.

The proposed rules will be considered by the Board again early next year, with a possible effective date in spring 2004.



Applications, Information and More!

Do you need to notify the Board of an address change? Do you have questions about licensure and rules in the state of Iowa? Or are you interested in taking a continuing education course, and want to know if the Board will accept the course for credit? The Iowa Board of Dental Examiners wants to make it easier for you to access the information and services you need. The Board has made all of these services, and more, available on its website, <http://www.state.ia.us/dentalboard>.

The Board's website allows you to:

- easily notify the Board of address changes;
- download any number of applications and other forms;
- access the Code of Iowa and Board rules pertaining to dentistry; find out about recent rule changes;
- get in touch with Board-approved continuing education sponsors; and
- so much more!

About the Iowa Board of Dental Examiners

The Iowa Board of Dental Examiners is a state agency charged with the responsibility of regulating the practice of dentistry, dental hygiene and dental assisting. The Board is composed of nine members, appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate: five licensed dentists, two licensed dental hygienists, and two public members who are not licensed to practice dentistry or dental hygiene. The term for a member of the board is three years. A board member can be reappointed to serve two additional terms, not to exceed nine years.

Current members serving on the Iowa Board of Dental Examiners are: George North, D.D.S., chair from Allison, Deenna Kuempel, D.D.S., vice-chair, from Cedar Rapids, Debra Yossi, R.D.H., secretary, from Cedar Rapids, Alan Hathaway, D.D.S. from Davenport, Richard Reay, D.D.S. from Johnston, Gary Roth, D.D.S. from Fairfield, Eileen Cacioppo, R.D.H. from Davenport, Elizabeth Brennan from West Des Moines, and Suzan Stewart from Sioux City.

Dental Assistant Renewal Information

Dental assistant renewal for the 2003-2005 biennium has come to a close. Approximately 3,300 dental assistants renewed their registration and/or qualification in dental radiography. The Board has posted a list of all active dental assistants on its website, <http://www.state.ia.us/dentalboard>. The list will be updated monthly. If a dental assistant's name does not appear on this list, it may be possible that registration was issued after the list was last updated. However, the Board recommends that the dental assistant contact the Board office as soon as possible.

Everyone who renewed should have received a renewal card showing an expiration date of June 30, 2005. Please make certain that your renewal card is posted with your certificate of registration. If you do not have a renewal card, please contact the Board office.

The Board also wanted to take this opportunity to make dental assistants aware of the continuing education requirements for renewal in 2005. The Board requires all dental assistants to show proof of current certification in basic CPR. All dental assistants who actively treat patients in Iowa must also complete training in

the area of abuse identification and reporting, which is required within six months of employment and once every five years thereafter. The Board will ask you to report this date on the renewal application.

Board rules require dental assistants to complete twenty credit hours of continuing education. Two hours must be in the subject area of infection control. Dental assistants who have a qualification in dental radiography must also complete two hours in the area of radiography to maintain the added qualification in dental radiography. *Board rules no longer require continuing education in the area of jurisprudence.*

Dental assistants who are initially registered between July 1, 2003, and June 30, 2005, must provide evidence of basic CPR and abuse identification and reporting requirements. They are exempt from the 20 hours of continuing education in 2005. However, the Board will require these individuals to complete continuing education requirements for the biennium beginning July 1, 2005.

See the Board website for additional information.



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We want your ideas!

The Iowa Board of Dental Examiners created this newsletter to provide useful information to licensees and registrants in the state of Iowa. The Board welcomes all suggestions for possible inclusion in future newsletters. The Board wants to provide you with the information that you need. If you have any thoughts or ideas, please feel free to contact us with your comments and suggestions.

Find us on the Internet:
<http://www.state.ia.us/dentalboard>

Change of Address

Name: _____ License/Registration # _____

Home Address: _____ Home Phone: _____

Work Address: _____ Work Phone: _____

_____ Work Fax: _____

Submit form to: Iowa Board of Dental Examiners, 400 SW 8th St., Suite D, Des Moines, IA 50309 Fax: (515) 281- 7969, Email: IBDE@bon.state.ia.us

**if you also wish to change your name with our office, please submit a notarized copy of your marriage certificate, marriage license, or divorce decree noting name change.